



## Oregon School Activities Association

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TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

FROM: Peter Weber, Executive Director  
Kyle Stanfield, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: Inclusion Committee – May 29 Meeting Minutes

The OSAA Inclusion Committee met for the second time this school year in a public meeting on Tuesday, May 29 at the OSAA Offices in Wilsonville. In person attendees included Ted Yates (Gladstone HS), Heidi Hermansen (Cascade HS), Carly Schmidt (City of Eugene) along with OSAA Staff members Peter Weber, Kyle Stanfield, Brad Garrett, Kris Welch and Kelly Foster. Committee members Kacey McCallister (World Wheelchair Sports) and Ken Bell (Sherwood HS) were unable to attend.

The meeting began with introductions and a recap of the Swimming and Track & Field State Championships. The staff went through a packet of information with Committee members for both the Swimming and Track & Field Championships. Included in the information were copies of the entries and results from each venue. Discussion took place about the staff working through the unique features of each event's software to be able to include the information in the correct spots and within the meets.

Six student-athletes (up from three in 2017) competed in both the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyles at Swimming representing Gladstone, Bend, Hillsboro, Wilsonville and Hermiston. There were seven student-athletes (up from five in 2017) that competed in the 100 meter, 400 meter, 1500 meter and/or the Shot Put at Track & Field. Schools represented were Willamina, Gladstone, David Douglas, Siuslaw, Dallas, Oregon City and Wilsonville. The points earned were counted towards the combined team scores for schools.

The Committee then opened the floor to input from those members of the general public in attendance at the meeting. Informal testimony ensued from parents, student-athletes and coaches. Committee members engaged in back and forth discussion to talk about the positive aspects of the Committee's work but also the work that is in front of the group to make improvements for all. Common themes that came through from those providing input included:

- Not to limit track & field participation to two events
- Add a distance or stroke to the Swimming State Championship events
- Ensure the points earned by para-athletes were included in the overall team score
- Grow participation to a point where separation of wheelchair and able-bodied athletes can occur
- Provide educational resources to schools and coaches on how to involve students to grow the program

Following testimony, the Committee went into a work session to discuss possible changes/recommendations to forward to the Executive Board for consideration. The following will be discussed with the Executive Board at their July meeting:

- Recommend maintaining the four events currently offered at the Track & Field State Championships (100 meter, 400 Meter, 1500 Meter and Shot Put).
- Recommend qualifying standards in both Track & Field and Swimming State Championships. Student-athletes must meet these standards to be able to compete at the state championships (wheelchair and ambulatory). The Committee felt that providing qualifying standards would help align with current qualifying standards at the

meet and provide goals for students wishing to participate at the state level. The Committee had conversation around whether the introduction of qualifying standards would stifle growth within the para-athlete events. After great discussion the Committee felt that students need benchmarks to meet and to strive for to get to the state meet. They feel that an entry into the state championship is not the overall initiative that needs to be focused on, it's getting students into programs and competing throughout the year. The WIAA (Washington) has some standards already set up for their track & field championships. The OSAA will look into mirroring those standards and create those that do not currently exist.

- If minimum qualifying standards were adopted, allow students to participate in as many categories as allowed by NFHS Rules (do not limit to 2 events per athlete).
- The OSAA staff will develop minimum qualifying standards and distribute to schools prior to the 2018-19 school year.
- Ask the Board to consider adding the 100-yard backstroke at the 2019 Swimming State Championships.
- Students who have the capability to participate in the traditional meet but also wish to participate in inclusion events, if they meet the parameters, must choose which event to enter and not be able to compete in both.
- Continue to administer the Shot Put from the chair for all participants and use the 4 kg (boys) and 6 lb (girls) implements. OSAA staff will ensure that information is disseminated to all participants in advance.
- Administer the events at each state championship prior to the first set of trophies being distributed with exact times/dates to be determined. With the Track & Field Championship locations being TBD, the OSAA staff will communicate as soon as it knows when/where para-athlete events will take place.
- Continue requirement that para-athletes be academically eligible, participate on their school team during the season, and qualify through a district meet.
- Continue to work with Adaptive Sports NW, World Wheelchair Sports, Oregon Athletic Directors, Oregon Athletic Coaches and the NFHS to get materials disseminated about recruiting and coaching para-athletes to your program along with how to gain access to equipment needed for them to compete.

Before the Committee adjourned they discussed the continued efforts to bring positive awareness to schools about the resources available to them. The Committee feels that efforts on all fronts will be needed to grow these championships and provide the ultimate opportunity which would start with splitting ambulatory from wheelchair and boys from girls. The Committee feels strongly that all parties, not just the OSAA and this group, need to continue to find ways to get the information to students and their parents about the opportunity.

The Committee will schedule their next meeting for the Fall which will be a closed work session to prepare for the 2019 events.

All written communication received will be forwarded to all members of the Inclusion Committee for their review. Contact Peter Weber ([peterw@osaa.org](mailto:peterw@osaa.org)) or Kris Welch ([krisw@osaa.org](mailto:krisw@osaa.org)) at the OSAA if you have any questions.